

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-6 and 12-14 are amended, and claims 7-11 and 15-20 remain withdrawn from consideration. No new matter is added.

I. Personal Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Patterson at the interview held May 20, 2003, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' separate record of the interview.

II. Section 112 Rejections

Claims 1-6 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By this Amendment, these claims are amended to address the indefiniteness issues raised in the Office Action. As agreed to in the personal interview, claims 1-6 and 12-14 satisfy the requirements of §112, second paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Section 102 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,834,638 to Miyahara et al. (Miyahara). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to an insertion-molded cylindrical article, comprising a cylindrical molded body having an inner surface, a mark of an injection gate opening positioned on said inner surface, and a barrel portion having an outer surface, and a sheet-shaped insert having an upper end; wherein said insert is bonded to said outer surface of said barrel portion, and wherein said mark is positioned at said inner surface of the cylindrical molded body while being inwardly apart from said upper end of said insert in an axial direction and at a position corresponding to a position on said inner surface that is covered by said insert. As agreed to in the personal interview, Miyahara does not teach every feature of claim 1.

Claim 3 is directed to a method for making an insertion-molded cylindrical article using an insertion injection molding mold, said insertion-molded article comprising a cylindrical molded body having a molded body inner surface, a bottom portion, a barrel portion having an outer surface, and an insert having an upper end; said insertion injection molding mold comprising an outer mold unit having an inner surface and a pull-out mold unit and defining a core-inserting space therein, a core having and injection gate opening and shaped to be inserted and fitted into the outer molding unit, and a molding cavity defined between said outer mold unit and said core inside the injection molding mold, said method comprising fitting, attaching and holding said insert along said inner surface of the outer molding unit in said molding cavity, injecting a molten resin through said injection gate opening toward said molded body inner surface at a position inwardly apart from said upper end of the insert in an axial direction and at a position corresponding to a position on said molded body inner surface that is covered by said insert, and curing and forming the cylindrical molded body while pushing the insert onto the inner surface of the outer molding unit with the molten resin; wherein said insert is integrally bonded to said outer surface of said barrel portion of the cylindrical molded body. As agreed to in the personal interview, Miyahara does not teach every feature of claim 3.

For the reasons discussed in the personal interview, claims 1 and 3 are not anticipated by Miyahara. Claim 2 depends from claim 1, and claims 4, 6 and 13 depend from claim 3. Thus, these dependent claims include every feature of claim 1 and claim 3, respectively. Accordingly, Miyahara does not anticipate these dependent claims for at least the same reasons as claim 1 and claim 3, respectively. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Section 103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 5, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyahara in view of Japanese Patent No. 06246777 (JP 777). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 5, 12 and 14 depend from claim 3, and thus include all of its features. As agreed to in the personal interview, neither Miyahara nor JP 777, alone or in combination, teach or suggest every feature of claim 3.

For at least the reasons agreed to in the personal interview, claim 3 is patentable over Miyahara, alone or in view of JP 777. Thus, claims 5, 12 and 14, which depend from claim 3, are patentable over Miyahara, alone or in view of JP 777. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:PAC/djb

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